

CAC Agenda / Working Doc / 2.8.23

In attendance:

- CAC: Laurie, Lori, Leah, Steve, Denis, Jen, Frances
- Liaison:
- Invited Guests Meeting opened 7:00
- (INSERT [Jan MINUTES](#))
 - (Frances please submit (once approved) as pdfs to Deputy Clerk , deputyclerk@redhook.org)
 - Frances will send these by email as PDFs so all CAC members can review

Events/ Webinars/Training Opps

The 2023 Annual CAC & EMC Roundtable, Wed, March 22nd (snow date Thursday, March 23rd), 6:30pm – 8:30pm

- Any volunteers to attend/ share this year?

Please be sure your CAC/CAB/EMC fills out ALL sections of both the directory form and the annual report form and that it is returned to LaQuan (ajr274@cornell.edu) and I (cak97@cornell.edu) by **Wednesday, March 15th**

Earth Day event Sat. 4/29/23

Dutchess County will be hosting an Earth Day Event on April 29, 2023 at the Farm and Home Center, from 10 am – 2 pm. We would like to invite a representative from each community's CSC and CAC committees to attend. There will be one booth for all CAC reps and one for CSC reps (both will be shared spaces). Each are welcome to bring information on projects in which their committees are working on or have in place. While those of us in the environmental and sustainability realm often cross over between different organizations, we are asking CAC / CSC to come representing only programs their committees are involved in. If you would be interested in attending this event to represent your community, please respond to krussell@dutchessny.gov.

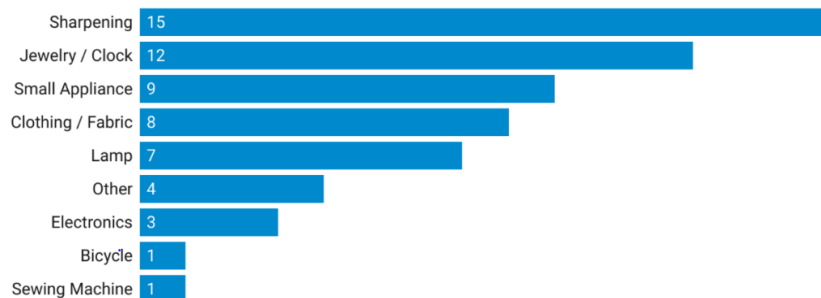
- Anyone available for this networking opportunity?
- What materials should we provide and share? IRA-tied?

Repair Cafe COMMUNITY event w/ BardCCE at RHCC

1/14/23, Saturday, 10-1pm

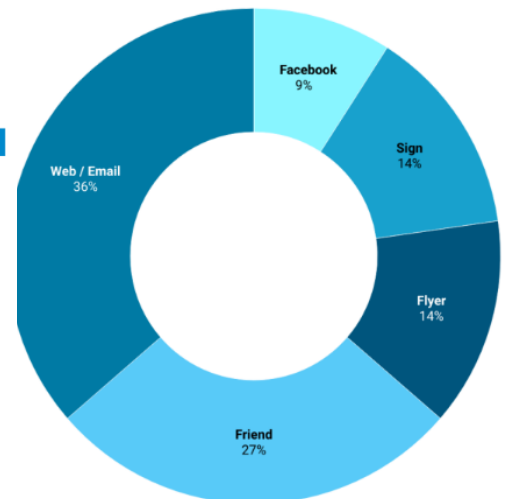
Repair Cafe Visitors

January 14, 2022



Source: Data from sign-in sheets. Some visitors brought multiple items • Created with Datawrapper

How Visitors Found the Repair Cafe



Source: Data from sign-in sheets • Created with Datawrapper

- **NEXT DATE Earth Day 4/22**
 - Steve is putting together numbers on items repaired so far over the course of Repair Cafes.
 - Goal for advertising:
 - Spanish translation for advertising Repair Cafe to increase equity in reach.
 - Posters up a full 6 days earlier

- Sign placement - consistently get up to Tivoli.
- Stakes for signs - we need replacements / buy a few extras?

Materials Management

- Compost - Proud Composters
 - Lori and Frances met about goal of expanding compost program. Currently: 4 bins, mostly full by end of week. Adding 2 bins adds \$118 per month. Another outreach push? Give out more buckets at Earth Day? Increase number of bins ahead of push, or in response to increased use?
 - Leah noticing some people still have concerns about smell of food scraps. Jen suggested recommending they keep bucket in fridge. Lori has ½ the stickers; TJ has the other half to hand to people as they pay for their bags of trash - let them know they can make their bag smaller.
 - Will meet with Amelia (O Zone) on Feb 28th.
 - Kerry Russell from Dutchess County says the County does not have money at the moment for municipalities but is on a listening tour to consider support through budget for next year.
 - Mostly, Lori is finding that grants are funding the launch and equipment of programs, not operations.
 - Other question: expand to businesses? Will consult with Amelia.
- E-waste - how do we improve access - what does TJ say?
 - Important to make E-waste day available. Laurie cannot lead this year; need someone to step in.
- Paper Shred / Clean Up Day
 - Paper Shred does not seem like CAC scope. Could happen on clean-up day, both run by Board members.
- What do we need to roll out our guide/ time it with April ewaste/papershred? [A Red Hook Resident's Guide to Materials Management](#)

Misc

- Climate smart community updates
- [April EcoChallenge](#) - month long contest - pls review the actions- look good/ would you participate/ would you share/ recruit?
- Town Board public hearings
 - Local Law No. B (Proposed) of 2023 entitled "A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE ZONING LAW, CHAPTER 143, OF THE TOWN CODE OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK REGARDING INCENTIVE ZONING" to encourage the use of the incentive zoning for the protection of open space and to encourage the development of affordable housing and the location of housing in the TND (traditional neighborhood development district).
 - B: Town implemented an incentive zoning code and fund for developers who are developing in the TND area. They can have additional density on that land if they pay into a fund. This fund used to only be allocated towards preserving ag lands in the ABD. Town Board finds this too limiting, and would like to extend it to apply to other areas.
 - C: Open space: gives steps for the Town to acquire properties with the ability to "alienate" portions of them (not retain the full property).
 - Setting a Public Hearing on the open space acquisition and preservation of Cookingham Farm (East)
 - 90% under conservation easement, 10% set aside for affordable single family housing.
- DEC camps
 - Jen is waiting to hear from the Masons; VFW waiting on board approval; sign-up will start in April.
- Ruth Oja scholarship
 - April 1 deadline. Jen is putting on Facebook and working with RHCS D
- Energy cte - any discussion around overlap areas?
 - Agrivoltaics - supervisor requesting he get a map with a few criteria (Denis to share)
 - Michael from Sawkill farms is interested in putting together a business plan for agrivoltaics. This would be dependent on zoning change from the town.

- Denis recommends we ask Audrey Freidrichsen (Scenic Hudson) for potential guidance on amending conservation easements.
- Frances and Denis working on using Solar Mapping Tool to identify potential sites. What properties are under easements. Where is the 3 phase access (3-phase lines are limiting in our area). Existing generation and capacity. Also, there's already a lot of distributed generation in the queue on many lines with capacity.
- CCA update from Town Supervisor:
 - A suggested hybrid model: pricing fixed for 3-4 months out. Loosely corresponding to utility rates, but slightly discounted. Opt-out model. Town still has to decide about moving forward, within the next month or two. The advantage is it doesn't pitch ESCO against participants - success is together
 - Previously, other municipalities have offered 2 options - clean or mixed; Red Hook is committed to renewable energy.
- (School energy, solar, & building audit, electric buses)
 - Denis has talked to TetraTech, and Hannah Morgan from NYSERDA P-12 clean energy program. RHCS D has applied for funding to do a feasibility study!
 - Asked TetraTech for current status in the design process.
 - Allocated budget for oil has doubled relative to last year. Additionally, all institutions will likely be mandated to come off fossil fuels within 10-15 years; these systems will then have to be decommissioned.

Breakout groups 8-8:15

- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program
 - **Local governments and Tribes can apply through January 31, 2024.**
 - **However, it is important to note that all eligible entities that intend to apply must submit their Pre-Award Information Sheet by April 28, 2023.**
 - **IS THERE A BENEFIT TO APPLYING EARLIER RATHER THAN LATER IN THE APPLICATION WINDOW?**
 - We encourage applicants to take their time developing robust, thoughtful strategies that inform detailed applications. Because this is not a competitive grant, all eligible governments and Tribes are entitled to the full allocation indicated in the allocation tables available on the EECBG Program website. However, the sooner that you submit your application, the sooner you will have access to your funding.
- What do we want to apply for? We don't know how much money it would be. Jen suggests we propose a suite of actions we would take, depending on the amount of money.
 - Revamp Energy & Climate Action Plan
 - Highway Garage heating system conversion
 - Microgrid feasibility study
 - Organics facility (Village of Rhinebeck just received a grant - \$300,000). Material conservation programs are within the scope of this grant.

Audubon Sustainable Community Program *(did not discuss at January or Feb CAC meeting)*

- [Link to Sustainable Audubon Actions by 15 Focus Areas](#)
- [Opportunity for Commitment for the Town CAC](#)
 - Environment Action 1 (slide 13) - Work with Event Committees for sustainability checklists for future event planning
 - Recreation Action 2 (slide 39) - use recreation spaces for sustainable action & education
 - Resource Use Action 1 (slide 41) - Review resource use including (i) water & land, soil & plants (ii) material goods, both durable & consumable (iii) energy & climate.

- Resource Use Action 2 (slide 42) - Create list of suggested best practices, adopt codes to be better stewards, and create incentives to implement.
- Volunteerism & Civic Engagement Action 2 (slide 45) - build sustainability into official events and traditions e.g. Apple Blossom and Hardscrabble Days, develop practices & signage.
- Transportation Action 2 (slide 48) - develop access to low-carbon transportation by implementing [Energy & Climate Action Plan](#) initiatives, trails, bike shares, EV chargers

Land & Water

- Water / SKWC Amphibian Migrations - social event Rose Hill Farm Feb 24 hosted by Winnakkee prioritizing Rhinebeck but we're invited
- NRI award

Climate Smart Community/ Energy

- Electric Mower implementation - no grant award yet(?)
- Agrivoltaics - Denis to meet with Gidon
- CSC - EDC collaboration
 - EDC is wanting a way into local sustainability work
 - Also have contacted about Audubon
 - Food systems - [Buy Local/Buy Green CSC action](#)
- Refrigerant work w/ Energy Cte
- Heat Pump campaign with Energy cte?
- Biodigester at Bard - someone coming once a month

Transportation

- Charging stations
- What can replace the loss of zipcar in our community

Website/ Communications

Updates needed?

Budget: any insight on this year

Next month: what outcomes do we want to see?

Motion to adjourn: Laurie motion to adjourn, Lori second, meeting closed 8:47pm

Planning for 2023

Review of 2022 - 2nd breakout group updated for EMC report:

Projects/Work Completed or Ongoing in 2022:

- Ruth Oja Scholarship award marketing
- Bike/Pedestrian counts (supporting Dutchess County) x 2
- Hardscrabble Day Community Event tabling w/ Bard College students - celebrating apples and had our electric cart in the parade
- Outreach and data collection for DEC Program: Amphibian Migration & Road Crossing (local FB page) - SKWC lead this year for second year
- Audubon Sustainability Community Certification Program support
- Town Earth Day clean up event w/ other partners - RH Rotary, RH Library, RH Community Ctr. April 24 1-4pm
- Compost Pilot Program -Apple Blossom Launch Day
- Refrigerant Recovery
- 150K Level 3 Vehicle Chargers
- DEC Camp Administration Program
- Highway Garage 75K Solar
- RHCS D interactions - trying to look at fossil fuel free future

Plans for work/projects in 2023

- Town Earth Day clean up, Repair Cafe and e-waste day w/ other partners - Bard CCE, RH Rotary, RH Library, RH Community Ctr. DATE TBD
- Apple Blossom Community day with Paper Shred, compost pilot tabling
- work with RHCS D to do climate planning on their next capital project - get a carbon commitment?, where's the solar project: RHCS D fossil fuel free future
- Electric Vehicle Adoption Prep, evaluate Rotor muni owned car share
- Collab with Energy Cte over rolling out IRA benefits - education/ outreach
- Solar Mapping - farms/ where the grid can hold it/ etc
- implement electric mowing grant (if awarded)
- Compost Pilot continues for next six months, add commercial?
- Wildlife viewing station assessment
- Continuation of work to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- Cool Refrigerant Collection and gas removal effort
- Audubon Sustainable Community Certification - continue process, implement actions, install up to four art boxes

Exercise:

1. What outcomes do you want to achieve by end of 2023 - people, process, deliverables
2. How might we achieve those outcomes?